

What is claimed is:

1. A photographic laboratory digital image sequencing apparatus for generating a sequence of digital images of a customer order before passing the digital images to a printer for printing, comprising:

an image input, through which the digital images are received,

an image output which outputs the digital images,
said image output outputting the stored digital images
of the customer order according to an output sequence,

an image memory for storing the digital images of the customer order is provided,

a determining unit is arranged which determines positions of the stored digital images in the output sequence by referring to reference data.

2. The sequencing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said reference data are based on or correspond to a format of the image to be printed, a number of prints to be made of each digital image of the customer order, stored customer profiles, and/or external data input in the apparatus additionally to the received digital images.

3. The sequencing apparatus of claim 1, wherein said determining unit defines positions such that, in the case the customer order has n digital images and k prints are to be made of each image, each digital image of the set gets a position i, where $1 \leq i \leq n$, and, in case $k = 2$, one further position $j = i + n$,

and, in case $k=3$, another further position $j = i + 2*n$ in the output sequence.

5 4. The sequencing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the determining unit defines positions such that digital images assigned to the same printing format are positioned next to each other in the output sequence.

10 5. A method for sequencing photographic digital images in a photographic laboratory for generating a sequence of digital images of a customer order before passing the digital images to a printer for printing, comprising the steps of:

15 receiving digital images,
 storing the digital images of a customer order in an image memory,

 determining positions of digital images of the stored digital images in an output sequence by referring to reference data,

20 outputting the digital images of the customer order from the memory according to the output sequence.

25 6. The method of claim 5 comprising the step of determining the printing sequence data based on or corresponding to at least one of information on format of the images to be printed, information of number of prints for each image, or external data input in the apparatus additionally to the received images.

30

00885727.062001

5

10

15

20

8. Processing system of claim 7, further comprising a finishing device having features for performing at least one of cutting or sorting, wherein the reference data for the determining unit refer to information on the features of the finishing device.

sub
no/